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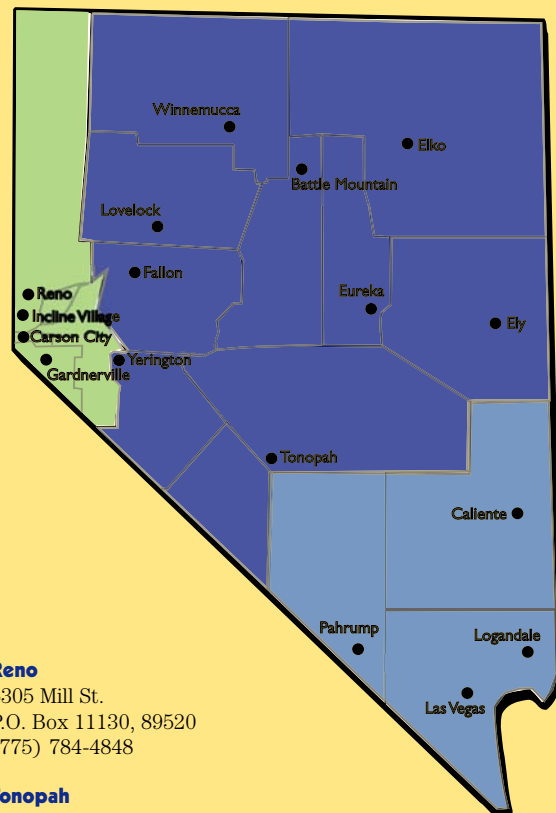
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What is Cooperative Extension?

Our purpose

We're the outreach college that *extends* knowledge from the University of Nevada — and other land-grant universities — to local communities to address issues. We are a federal-state-county partnership with 17 offices throughout the state. Our more than 200 personnel — with the help of volunteers — deliver non-degree educational programs based on local needs. In 2001, UNCE made more than 540,000 face-to-face contacts with community citizens, a 26 percent increase over 2000.

Our program areas

- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Community Development
- ▶ Health and Nutrition
- ▶ Horticulture
- ▶ Human and Family Development
- ▶ Natural Resources

Our mission

To discover, develop, disseminate, preserve and use knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of people.

UNCE publications

To access our more than 460 on-line publications, log on:

www.unce.unr.edu/pubs.html

UNCE educates in all 17 counties!

2002 Annual Report

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UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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Facilitators and technical experts guide conservation planning

Thirty people gather in the rural community center on a warm spring night. This diverse group—ranchers, sportsmen, private landowners, agency professionals and representatives of environmental groups—listens attentively as university scientists describe the condition of Nevada's rangelands. They ask thoughtful questions, make insightful remarks, pore over maps and plan field trips.

These dedicated volunteers belong to one of six local conservation planning groups. Their charge, from the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team, is to learn about the bird, identify species' and human needs and develop a local 20-year plan to conserve sage grouse and sagebrush ecosystems. The Governor's team asked UNCE to facilitate and help provide scientific information to guide the local groups.

"The process is going very well," reports Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau Executive VP and member of the Governor's team. "The local groups work effectively to make a difference without the heavy hand

of a regulatory force."

The sage grouse, once numbering 2 million in the West, has decreased to 250,000 or less, and it is feared the bird will become endangered. This "indicator species" signals declining health

of the sagebrush habitat. "Sage grouse is the political 'trigger,' but it's wise to take an ecosystem approach because of other species dependent on sagebrush," observes Kent McAdoo, UNCE rangeland specialist.

Adds Busselman, "Cooperative Extension facilitators and technical experts are making a valuable contribution in educating and helping volunteers stay engaged when the going might get tough. I am hopeful we're establishing a system

Photo by Alice Good



Members of a local planning group, facilitated by UNCE's Steve Lewis, meet monthly in Walker or Smith Valley to plan for sage grouse conservation and healthy ecosystems.



of solution implementation that is the future way we do business."

Volunteers extend educational programs

Photo by Claudene Wharton



Volunteer Jeanne Gribbin was named Weed Warrior of the Year by the Nevada Weed Management Association for her dedication to weed awareness and abatement.

Jeanne Gribbin moved to Virginia City Highlands five years ago because of the free-roaming horses. She wanted to see them healthy and viable. What she found were acres of invasive tall whitetop. She drove through the highlands, spraying weeds along roads and waterways and educating neighbors about the destructive plant.

"I eradicated 90 percent of whitetop from the highlands," reports Gribbin, "but it has spread to many new areas." She will soon have

help from Storey County, which hired a weed-abatement employee.

Gribbin is one of more than 300 Weed Warrior volunteers, trained by UNCE's Sue Donaldson. In 2001, Weed Warriors gave more than 500 hours to enhance the health and economy of the environment. Another 1,670 adult and youth volunteers extend UNCE's educational programs in other communities by teaching their neighbors healthy eating habits, efficient gardening practices or self-esteem-building skills to youth—to name just a few.

4-H Centennial unites youth statewide

The National 4-H Centennial Celebration brought 400 Nevada youth and adults together in 19 local "conversations" to brainstorm ways youth can harness their power and become community leaders. Eighty

representatives joined a State Conversation, resulting in youth seeking spots on state boards and pledging 11,000 hours of service to their communities.

"4-H is on the move in Nevada," says UNCE Dean and Director Karen Hinton. "Young people have told us 4-H teaches them leadership and other life skills, and they intend to use them to make a difference."

Nearly 48,000 youth, ages 6 to 18, enrolled in Nevada 4-H youth development programs in 2001, an increase of 30 percent overall and an increase of 38 percent in large cities and their suburbs.

Here are a few of the 2001 highlights:

- The Clark County Exploring Science program, developed by Youth Specialists Molly Latham and Brenda Cloud, reflects a rising interest in career exploration and serves a niche missing in the elementary schools.
- Ag in the Classroom attendance rose 25 percent. Carson City/Storey County 4-H Coordinator Jill Tingey reports that 2,000 kindergarten through third-grade students attended a two-day event teaching youth where their food and fiber come from.
- 4-H enrollment in Eureka County jumped from 45 to more than 200 participants largely due to the community's need for youth development programming and local funding for a 4-H Coordinator.



Nevada delegates to the National Centennial Conversation plan to continue to flex their collective muscle statewide.

Successful teen offender program expands to new communities

After taking the intensive eight-week Project MAGIC program, she's done a complete 180."

Jaimie Evanoff is a 15-year-old home school student in Tonopah, who became involved with some people she now admits she shouldn't have. She and her parents were court-ordered to Project MAGIC after charges of runaway, injury to property and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

"When I first encountered Jaimie, I thought to myself, she's going to Caliente," said Probation Officer D'Rinda "Curly" Greber. "But after taking the intensive eight-week Project MAGIC program, she's done a complete 180. She has good interaction with other youth and has not reoffended. I'm very proud of her."

Jaimie's mother, Penny Strickland, reports, "We sit down

now and 'negotiate.' Jaimie's grades have improved to A's and B's, and she's planning to attend beauty college but hasn't ruled out going for a Millennium Scholarship."

Project MAGIC—a collaborative prevention program to help entry-level juvenile offenders become productive members of society—has graduated 1,000 rural county youth who have not reentered the system, saving taxpayers an estimated \$5.4 million in incarceration costs for the 18 percent who statistically reoffend in Nevada. The program has graduated

more than 100 youth in Las Vegas, and has also expanded to Carson City and the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

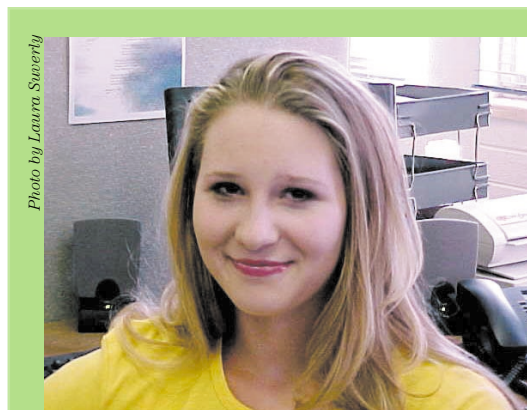


Photo by Laura Suverly

Tonopah student Jaimie Evanoff learned life skills from Laura Suverly, her instructor in Project MAGIC (Making a Group and Individual Commitment).

Master Gardeners help neighbors save water, time, money

Mel Hengen is not a bored retiree. The 63-year-old Boulder City resident, a former Federal Aviation Administration official, is now considered a turfgrass and irrigation expert. This Master Gardener clocks 400 volunteer hours a year. He teaches an eight-week landscape design and retrofit class in Las Vegas, Logandale and Mesquite and on Thursdays, he staffs the hotline from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"People wonder why I do this, but I just love to help people help themselves," says Hengen. "When I run into former students and they say, 'Let me tell you how I solved that



Photo by Wendy Hanson
Reno Master Gardener Jean Pici has had great success experimenting with tomatoes using hydroponics.

problem,' I get real charged up!"

Hengen is one of more than 400 Master Gardeners statewide who undergo intense horticulture training and then volunteer at least 50 hours

yearly helping their neighbors learn water-efficient techniques. In 2001, Master Gardeners volunteered 28,000 hours of plant science education, the equivalent of 14 full-time employees.

Master Gardeners teach by phone and e-mail, through the media and at garden clubs, senior centers, hospitals, schools, child care centers, nurseries, farmers markets, demonstration gardens and prisons. In Reno's Harvest for the Hungry, they grow vegetables and donate them to food banks. Youth also participate in Junior Master Gardener programs.

In 2001, Master Gardeners volunteered 28,000 hours of plant science education.

Reaching isolated communities with technology

In today's high-tech world, a learning atmosphere can be anywhere you want it to be—a college classroom, a learning center in your community or home at your own computer.

UNCE's statewide use of live, interactive videoconferencing for educational programs and planning meetings increased more than 30 percent in 2001. These community learning centers help instructors and participants save travel time and dollars.

"Compressed video allows citizens to increase their knowledge and skills without having to travel far from home," says Meggin McIntosh, Director of UNR's Excellence in Teaching Program. "Participants also hear ideas from other people who don't live down the street."



Photo by Marilyn Smith

Here are just a few examples of successful 2001 videoconferences:

- Nutritionists in five states focused on educational strategies in a two-day training conducted by UNCE's Madeleine Sigman-Grant that resulted in improved knowledge, awareness, motivation and skills.
- More than 100 cattle producers at five sites learned how to economically improve the reproductive efficiency of their herds in a course taught by UNCE's Ron Torell and other university instructors.

"The use of this technology allows educators to react quickly to emerging issues," Torell points out, "such as a disease outbreak during calving. In this instance, we would connect ranchers with our state veterinarian."

Youth, too, benefit from the educational adaptation of new technologies. Experts indicate today's youth use the Internet as their main source of communication. UNCE's Marilyn Smith uses high-speed Internet access as the primary educational delivery method in after-

school programming at the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Smith obtained outside funding for a computer center to help ease young peoples' feelings of isolation. A group of teens is training to help seniors use the Internet as well.



Photo by Marilyn Smith



Photo by Mfime Link

(Lower left and below) Internet access at Duck Valley Indian Reservation connects youth with worldwide resources. (Bottom) Compressed video links Eureka citizens with educators statewide.